

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to clarify that the feed mechanism is configured to advance “and stop” the printing medium. Basis for this is found in the recitation of original Claims 1 and 8 that the feed is intermittent. Claims 15 and 22 have similarly been amended to recite that the method is for controlling a printing device having a feed mechanism “configured to advance *and stop* the printing medium intermittently.” Basis for this is again found in the recitation of original Claims 1 and 8 that the feed is intermittent.

Claims 1, 8, 9, 11, 15, 22, 23 and 25 have again been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Wataya et al. In reply to Applicant’s prior remarks which pointed out that there is no evidence in Wataya et al for a printing device having a feed mechanism configured to advance the printing medium *intermittently*, the Examiner replied (paragraph 7) that the broadest reasonable interpretation of “intermittently” would include adjusting the feed rate as in Wataya et al.

Without acquiescing to the merits of the Examiner’s interpretation of “intermittently,” Applicant has nonetheless amended the claims to clarify that “intermittently” means to advance “and stop” the printing medium. As noted in the prior response, Wataya et al compensates for variations in the feed speed of a printing medium due to thickness variations of a feed belt or outer roundness of a drive roller (column 2, lines 39-50) by adjusting an image record timing in accordance with a detected feed speed (column 4, lines 15-21). However there is no evidence of a feed mechanism configured to advance *and stop* the printing medium intermittently. Accordingly, even under the Examiner’s interpretation, Wataya et al does not anticipate the claims.

Concerning paragraphs 14-20 of the Office Action, the presently claimed invention and Kakutani were both owned at the time of invention by the assignee of record, Seiko

Epson Corp. of Japan. Accordingly Kakutani is prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103 only as of its December 12, 2000 date of issuance (35 U.S.C. § 103(c)). Applicant is at this time submitting an accurate English translation of Japanese priority application 2000-293192. This is believed to perfect Applicant's priority date of September 27, 2000 under 35 U.S.C. § 119, which is prior to the effective prior art date of Kakutani. Accordingly the rejections of paragraphs 14-20, which rely in part on Kakutani, are believed to be moot.

Applicant therefore believes that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicits an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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